

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00
PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 /083 W
-----091757Z 004738 /41

R 091741Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4860

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 09504

PASS DOT (DAVENPORT, KAMM), WHITE HOUSE (JOHNSTON),
CAB (RODRIGUEZ, PETT)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, UK
SUBJECT: US-UK CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS REPORT

FOLLOWING FYI IS ESSENTIAL TEXT OF 9 JUNE REPORT IN
DAILY TELEGRAM RE AIR TALKS:

1. NEW HOPE OF SUCCESS IN ATLANTIC AIR TALKS.
TALKS ABOUT RENEGOTIATION OF BILATERAL BERMUDA AIR
AGREEMENT, RESCINDED BY BRITAIN LAST YEAR BECAUSE IT
FAVOURED US TOO MUCH, RESUME IN LONDON TODAY AFTER
BREAK FOR JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.
2. TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND AMERICANS HAVE THREATENED
TO HALT AIR SERVICES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES IF AGREEMENT
NOT REACHED BY JUNE 22, WHEN EXISTING 30-YEAR-OLD
BERMUDA AGREEMENT EXPIRES.
3. OBJECT NOW IS TO LIMIT CAPACITY OVER NORTH ATLANTIC
WHICH HAS INCREASINGLY BEEN SWAMPED BY AMERICAN PLANES
IN ATTEMPT TO WIN MORE TRAFFIC BUT WITH TOO MANY EMPTY
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SEATS AS A RESULT, WITH BIG LOSSES TO AIRLINES.

4. TALKS HAVE BEEN IN PROGRESS FOR 10 MONTHS, AND IN
PAST FEW WEEKS AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SHOWING
INCREASING IMPATIENCE WITH SLOW PROGRESS, ALTHOUGH
CONCESSIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BY BOTH SIDES, CULMINATING
IN "SHUTDOWN" THREAT.

5. BRITISH OFFICIALS HAVE NOT TAKEN IT TOO SERIOUSLY
AND FORESEE ACCORD BEING REACHED, WITH NO SERVICES
STOPPED.

6. EXTENSION REQUEST
BRITAIN IS LIKELY TO ASK FOR EXTENSION OF EXISTING
AGREEMENT FOR FEW WEEKS IF IT DOES EXPIRE SO COMPLICATED
DRAFTING CAN BE COMPLETED.

7. MEANWHILE, BRITISH AND AMERICAN AIRLINES HAVE
ADVANCED CONTINGENCY PLANS IN CASE SHUT-DOWN THREAT IS
CARRIED OUT, WITH BRITAIN FLYING TO CANADA AND US TO
EUROPE.

8. ANOTHER POSSIBLE STUMBLING BLOCK IS THAT BRITAIN IS
INSISTING ON SOME ASSURANCE THAT AFTER NEW AGREEMENT
SIGNED, CONCORDE WILL BE ALLOWED INTO WASHINGTON AND
NEW YORK.

9. BRITISH AIRWAYS AND AIR FRANCE AWAITING DECISION OF
NY COURT OF APPEAL, WHICH SHOULD COME NEXT WEEK. WHOEVER
LOSES IS LIKELY TO APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT.

10. MEANWHILE JUNE 20 DATE SET BY TWO AIRLINES FOR

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START OF CONCORDE SERVICES TO NEW YORK IS DEFINITELY OFF,

WITH NEW TARGET DATE SET FOR MID-JULY.

11. FIRST FLIGHT INTO NEW YORK WILL BE PROVING FLIGHT
CARRYING AIRLINE OFFICIALS. INAUGURAL SERVICE WILL
START LATER.

12. 'UNIQUE NOISE' MEASUREMENT QUESTION.

13. NY PORT AUTHORITY MAINTAINED YESTERDAY NOISE OF
CONCORDE MAY BE "SO UNIQUE" NEW STANDARDS FOR MEASURING
DECIBLE LEVELS MAY BE REQUIRED.

14. IT GAVE THIS VIEW IN FINAL BRIEF SUBMITTED TO 3
APPEALS COURT JUDGES CONSIDERING APPEAL AGAINST JUDGE
POLLACK'S RULING AUTHORITY'S BAN ON PLANE AT KENNEDY
AIRPORT ILLEGAL.

15. IT OBJECTED TO GOVERNMENT'S CLAIM PORT AUTHORITY
HAD NOT APPLIED ITS NOISE STANDARDS TO CONCORDE AS WITH
SUBSONIC JET AIRCRAFT. IT DID NOT ATTEMPT TO
SUBSTANTIATE THIS CLAIM AND INDEED COULD NOT DO SO,
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IT STATED.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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